

# Marcola School District 79J

Code: GBN/JBA  
Adopted: 08/10/2020

## Sexual Harassment (Version 2)

The district is committed to the elimination of sexual harassment in district schools, activities and programs. Sexual harassment is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated. This includes sexual harassment: of students by staff members, other students or third parties; of staff members by students, other staff members or third parties; and of third parties by staff members and students. This policy applies to third parties who are on or immediately adjacent to school grounds or district property, are at any school-sponsored or district-sponsored activity or program, or are off school or district property, if a student or staff member acts toward the person in a manner that creates a hostile environment for the person while at school or a school-sponsored or district-sponsored activity or program. "Third parties" include, but are not limited to, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors or others engaged in district business, such as employees of businesses or organizations participating in cooperative work programs with the district and others not directly subject to district control at interdistrict and intradistrict athletic competitions or other school events. "District" includes: district facilities; district premises and nondistrict property if the student or staff member is at any district-sponsored, district-approved or district-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events, where students are under the jurisdiction of the district; or where the staff member is engaged in district business. The prohibition also includes off duty conduct which is incompatible with a staff member's district job responsibilities.

All staff members, students, and third parties are subject to this policy.

Sexual harassment of students, staff members or third parties shall include:

1. A demand or request for sexual favors in exchange for benefits;
2. Unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that is physical, verbal or nonverbal and that interferes with a student's educational program or activity or that creates an intimidating, offensive or hostile educational environment; unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that is physical, verbal or nonverbal and that interferes with the staff member's ability to perform the job or that creates an intimidating, offensive or hostile work environment; or unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that is physical, verbal or nonverbal and that creates an intimidating, offensive or hostile environment; and
3. Assault when sexual contact occurs without the student's, staff member's or third party's consent because the student, staff member or third party is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, is unconscious or is pressured through physical force, coercion or explicit or implied threats.

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but not be limited to, physical touching or graffiti of a sexual nature; displaying or distributing of sexually explicit drawings; pictures and written

materials; sexual gestures or obscene jokes; touching oneself sexually or talking about one's sexuality in front of others; or spreading rumors about or rating other students or others as to appearance, sexual activity or performance.

All complaints or reports about behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated.

Any staff member who becomes aware of behavior that may violate this policy shall immediately report to a district official so that the district official (and the reporting staff member when the victim of the harassment is a student or third party) may coordinate efforts to take any action necessary to ensure the:

1. Student is protected and to promote a nonhostile learning environment;
2. Staff member is protected and to promote a nonhostile work environment; or
3. Third party who is subjected to the behavior is protected and to promote a nonhostile environment.

This includes providing resources for support measures to the student, staff member or third party who was subjected to the behavior and taking any actions that are necessary to remove potential future impact on the student, staff member or third party, but are not retaliatory against the student, staff member or third party being harassed or the staff member who reported to the district official.

Any student or staff member who feels they are a victim of sexual harassment are encouraged to immediately report their concerns to district officials, this includes officials such as the principal, compliance officer or superintendent. Students may also report concerns to a teacher, counselor or school nurse, who will promptly notify the appropriate district official.

Upon receipt of a complaint from a student or the student's parents, a staff member or a third party alleging behavior that may violate this policy, the district shall provide written notice as required by Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 342.704(5) to the complainant.

The person who initiated the complaint and if applicable the student's parents or person's parents shall be notified when the investigation is initiated and concluded and as to whether a violation of this policy was found to have occurred to the extent allowable under state and federal student confidentiality laws.

The initiation of a complaint, and the participation in an investigation, in good faith about behavior that may violate this policy may not adversely affect the educational assignments or any terms or conditions of employment or of work or educational environment of the person who initiated the complaint or who participates in the investigation. There shall be no retaliation by the district against any person who, in good faith, reports, files a complaint or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry of sexual harassment.

It is the intent of the Board that appropriate corrective action will be taken by the district to stop the sexual harassment, prevent its recurrence and address negative consequences. Students in violation of this policy shall be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion and/or counseling or sexual harassment awareness training, as appropriate. The age and maturity of the student(s) involved and other relevant factors will be considered in determining appropriate action. Staff members in violation of this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal and/or additional sexual harassment awareness training, as appropriate. Other individuals whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the superintendent or the Board. Additionally, the district may report individuals in violation of this policy to law enforcement officials. Licensed staff, staff registered with the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) and those participating in practicum programs, as specified by Oregon Administrative Rules, shall be reported to TSPC.

The superintendent shall ensure appropriate periodic sexual harassment awareness training or information is provided to all supervisors, staff members and students and that annually, the name and position of district officials responsible for accepting and managing sexual harassment complaints, business phone numbers, addresses or other necessary contact information is readily available. This policy as well as the complaint procedure will be made available upon request to all students, parents of students, staff members and third parties, posted on the district's website and published in student/parent and staff handbooks. The district's policy shall be posted on a sign in all schools. Posted signs shall be at least 8-1/2 inches by 11 inches in size.

The superintendent will establish a process of reporting incidents of sexual harassment.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 243.706](#)  
[ORS 332.107](#)  
[ORS 342.700](#)  
[ORS 342.704](#)  
[ORS 342.708](#)

[ORS 342.850](#)  
[ORS 342.865](#)  
[ORS 659.850](#)  
[ORS 659A.006](#)  
[ORS 659A.029](#)

[ORS 659A.030](#)  
[OAR 581-021-0038](#)  
[OAR 584-020-0040](#)  
[OAR 584-020-0041](#)

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (2018).

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e (2018).

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683 (2018); Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (2019).

Bartsch v. Elkton School District, FDA-13-011 (March 27, 2014).

# Marcola School District 79J

Code: GBN/JBA-AR

Revised/Reviewed: 08/10/2020

## Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure (Version 2)

Principals, the compliance officer and the superintendent have responsibility for reports, complaints and investigations concerning sexual harassment. The investigator(s) shall be a neutral party having had no involvement in the complaint presented.

Step 1 Any sexual harassment information (i.e., reports, complaints, rumors, etc.) shall be presented to district officials, this includes officials such as the principal, compliance officer or superintendent. All such information shall be reduced to writing and will include the specific nature of the sexual harassment and corresponding dates.

The district official receiving the complaint shall cause the district to provide written notice from the district to the complainant that includes:

1. The rights of the student, student's parents, staff member, person or person's parents who filed the complaint;
2. Information about the internal complaint processes available through the school or district that the student, student's parents, staff member, person or person's parents may pursue, including the person designated for the school or district for receiving complaints;
3. Notice that civil and criminal remedies that are not provided by the school or district may be available to the complainant through the legal system and that those remedies may be subject to statutes of limitation;
4. Information about services available to the student or staff member complainant through the school or district including any counseling services, nursing services or peer advising;
5. Information about the privacy rights of the student, student's parents, staff member, person or person's parents and legally recognized exceptions to those rights for internal complaint processes and services available through the school or district;
6. Information about, and contact information for, state and community-based services and resources that are available to persons who have experienced sexual harassment; and
7. Notice that students who report information about possible prohibited conduct and students who participate in an investigation under this policy may not be disciplined for violations of the district's drug and alcohol policies that occurred in connection with the reported prohibited conduct and that were discovered as a result of a prohibited conduct report or investigation unless the student gave another person alcohol or drugs without

the person's knowledge and with the intent of causing the person to become incapacitated and vulnerable to the prohibited conduct.

This written notification must:

1. Be written in plain language that is easy to understand;
2. Use print that is of the color, size and font that allow the notification to be easily read; and
3. Be made available to students, students' parents, staff members and members of the public at each school office, at the district office and on the school or district website.

Step 2 The district official receiving the information or complaint shall promptly initiate an investigation and will notify the complainant when such investigation is initiated. The official will arrange such meetings as may be necessary to discuss the issue with all concerned parties within five working days after receipt of the information or complaint. All findings of the investigation, including the response of the alleged harasser, shall be reduced to writing. The official conducting the investigation shall notify the complainant in writing that the investigation is concluded and if a violation of the policy was found to have occurred to the extent allowable by law. The parties will have an opportunity to submit evidence and a list of witnesses.

A copy of the notification letter provided in step 1 and the date and details of notification to the complainant of the results of the investigation, together with any other documentation related to the sexual harassment incident, including disciplinary action taken or recommended, shall be forwarded to the superintendent.

Step 3 If a complainant is not satisfied with the decision at step 2, the complainant may submit a written appeal to the superintendent or designee. Such appeal must be filed within 10 working days after receipt of the step 2 decision. The superintendent or designee will arrange such meetings with the complainant and other affected parties as deemed necessary to discuss the appeal. The superintendent or designee shall provide a written decision to the complainant within 10 working days.

Step 4 If a complainant is not satisfied with the decision at step 3, the complainant may submit a written appeal to the Board. Such appeal must be filed within 10 working days after receipt of the step 3 decision. The Board shall, within 20 working days, conduct a hearing at which time the complainant shall be given an opportunity to present the appeal. The Board may use executive session if the subject matter qualifies under Oregon law. The Board shall provide a written decision to the complainant within 10 working days following completion of the hearing.

Complaints against the principal may start at step 3 and may be filed with the superintendent. The superintendent will cause the notice requirements identified in step 1 to be completed and the notice to the complainant when the investigation is initiated. The superintendent will investigate the complaint and will notify the complainant in writing that the investigation is concluded and if a violation of the policy was

found to have occurred to the extent allowable by law. If the complaint remains unresolved within [10] working days of receipt by the superintendent, the complainant may appeal to the Board in step 4. Complaints against the superintendent may start at step 4 and should be referred to the Board chair on behalf of the Board. The Board chair will cause the notice requirements identified in step 1 to be completed and the notice to the complainant when the investigation is initiated. The Board chair shall present the complaint to the Board. The Board may use executive session if the subject matter qualifies under Oregon law. If the Board decides an investigation is warranted, the Board may refer the investigation to a third party. When the investigation is complete, the results will be presented to the Board. The Board chair shall notify the complainant in writing that the investigation is concluded and if a violation of the policy was found to have occurred to the extent allowable by law. After receiving the results of the investigation, the Board shall decide, within 20 days, in open session what action, if any, is warranted.

Direct complaints related to employment may be filed with the U.S. Department of Labor, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries.

Direct complaints related to educational programs and services may be made to the Regional Civil Rights Director, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Region X, 915 2nd Ave., Room 3310, Seattle, WA 98174-1099.

Additional information regarding filing of a complaint may be obtained through the principal, compliance officer or superintendent.

All documentation related to sexual harassment complaints may become part of the student's education record or employee's personnel file, as appropriate. Additionally, a copy of all sexual harassment complaints and documentation will be maintained as a confidential file and stored in the district office.

The superintendent shall report the name of any person holding a teaching license or registered with Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) or participating in a practicum under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 584, Division 17, when, after appropriate investigation, there is reasonable cause to believe the person may have committed an act of sexual harassment. Reports shall be made to TSPC within 30 days of such a finding. Reports of sexual contact with a student shall be given to a representative from law enforcement or Oregon Department of Human Services, as possible child abuse.

**Marcola School District**  
**SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM**

Name of complainant: \_\_\_\_\_

Position of complainant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of alleged harasser: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of incident or incidents: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of misconduct: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of witnesses (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence of sexual harassment, i.e., letters, photos, etc. (attach evidence if possible): \_\_\_\_\_

Any other information: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that all the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Marcola School District**

**WITNESS DISCLOSURE FORM**

Name of Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Position of Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Testimony/Interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Instance Witnessed: \_\_\_\_\_

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Any Other Information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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I agree that all the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_